

REMARKS

In the Action, claims 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rizzi et al.

In view of the rejection, claim 10 has been amended to clarify the structure, and new claims 12 and 13 have been filed.

Namely, an inflator in claim 10 comprises a cylindrical bottle for storing a high pressure gas having an opening at one side thereof, a sealing plate attached to the bottle for sealing the opening, a diffuser connected to the bottle adjacent to the sealing plate and having a gas ejecting port at a side opposite to the opening of the bottle, a housing having an inner end located in front of the sealing plate, an initiator for generating an air blast disposed in the housing, and a piston provided inside the housing. Upon actuation of the initiator, the piston is urged toward the sealing plate by the air blast to rupture the same to allow the high pressure gas to linearly eject from the bottle.

In claim 10, the diffuser includes a circumferential surface located between the sealing plate and the gas ejecting port. The housing is attached to the circumferential surface of the diffuser so that the inner end is located in front of the sealing plate. Namely, the housing extends from the circumferential surface of the diffuser to the front of the sealing plate.

In Rizzi et al. cited in the Action, an apparatus 10 includes a container member 15, and an actuator assembly 16 having a plug member 40 attached to the container member 15 and an actuator housing 70. The actuator housing 70 simply attached to a rear end of the actuator assembly 16.

In the Examiner's opinion, the plug member 40 corresponds to the diffuser of the invention; a side wall portion 44 and lip portion 47 correspond to side surfaces of the invention; and the actuator housing 70 corresponds to the housing of the invention.

In claim 10 of the invention, it is clarified that the diffuser (12) has the circumferential surface between the sealing plate and the gas ejecting port, and the housing (17) is attached to the circumferential surface, wherein the inner end of the housing is located in front of the sealing plate. The side wall portion 44 of Rizzi et al. corresponds to the circumferential surface of the invention. However, the actuator housing 70 is attached to the lip portion 47 of the actuator assembly 16, not to the side wall portion 44. Therefore, the attachment portion of the housing 17 of the invention is entirely different from that of the actuator housing 70 of Rizzi et al.

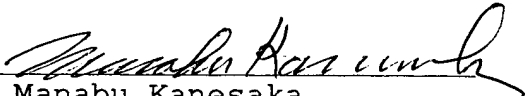
Claim 10 is not anticipated by Rizzi et al. and is patentable over Rizzi et al.

Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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